Dear Parents/Carers

We have enjoyed welcoming parents into school this week, both for our Primary 1 Induction event and for our Primary 2/3 Class Assembly.  Next week we will be welcoming parents for Primary 3’s Class Assembly.  The P3 Assembly was previously postponed as it was due to take place during the week we experienced significant absences due to vomiting.

This week our highest absences are due to holidays being taken during term time.  We are extremely thankful that the majority of absences this week are not as a result of ill health, but we have a figure which equates to approximately half a class currently off on holiday.  Whilst we appreciate the variety of reasons given for holidays being taken during term time, the challenge is supporting pupils to catch up on work missed when they return.  This will inevitably involve the teacher taking time away from other pupils to go over the work the child who was on holiday missed.  We do not create work packs for pupils to take away on holiday as this is an additional workload for class teachers.  Holidays taken during term time are recorded as unauthorised absences.

**Pupil Progress and Achievement Reports** are currently being issued by e-mail, as per our Reporting Calendar.  As they are being e-mailed individually, we are unable to issue all reports in one day and the process usually takes a few days. Mrs Gill is super-efficient but not quite bionic!  If you have not received your child’s report by Tuesday 16th May, please contact the school office.  Reports will be e-mailed in PDF format.  Pupils will bring home a paper copy of the Parent/Pupil Response Page so comments can be added, once you have read your child’s report.

Reports will be e-mailed by classes i.e. everyone in the same class should get their report on the same day.   If you have more than one child receiving a school report, and you wish them all to receive their reports together, then please wait until their sibling’s report is e-mailed to you and share them at the same time.  As always, we are grateful to you for your patience and understanding.

The Annual Pupil Progress and Achievement Report sit alongside termly comments you have received over the course of the year in homework diaries on Effort, Attitude and Behaviour.  **As with homework diary reports, learners are to have their comments recorded as this shows dialogue and reflection between Parent and Child**.   To support them in this you may wish to encourage them to include the following: **I am proud of ……, My strengths are ……., I would like to be better at……**These are only suggestions and their response can be structured in another way.  With the exception of our youngest learners, most pupils should be able to complete their comment for themselves, as appropriate.

We would greatly appreciate Parents completing the comments page for us as this is a key part of the reporting process.  It is important that reporting fully involves Parents and Carers as we know parental engagement has a significant impact on learners’ progress. Pupil Extra-Curricular Achievements can include things like learning to bake, gardening and going for long walks and bike rides! We would love to hear about these in addition to any clubs and groups your child attends!

Following receipt of your child’s report, if you feel the need for a consultation to discuss something specific then please record the concern you wish to discuss in the Parent/Carer’s Comment section. This will set the agenda and ensure the conversation is focused, as time slots are very short.  These can be booked via **Parentsportal**.  Parents will be notified by email when the booking system is open, and this will not be until all reports have been issued.  Options via Parentsportal will be timeslots on Wednesday 24th May 6-8:30pm or Thursday 25th May 3:45-6:15pm.

**Active Schools P7 Club……** Active Schools are offering a mini block of activities for P7 pupils this term, with sessions aimed at helping pupils meet new people and try new sports before the P7 visit days to the Academy in June. Each session will feature a different main activity (Basketball, Badminton & Netball) alongside various ice breakers and team games, all designed to help pupils mix and make new friends ahead of the big move into S1!  Each session can be booked individually, so pupils can choose which session(s) they wish to attend, with waiting lists to be established for oversubscribed sessions. Confirmation emails will be sent to all applicants.

Please see attached for more information or apply to take part through the following link - <http://bit.ly/ASPortlethen> (click the link and then scroll down to the ‘Book Portlethen Network Activities online’ button!)

We are looking forward to welcoming you all into Fishermoss School next weekend, **Saturday 20th May, 11-2pm for our Spring Fayre!**

Kindest regards

**Margaret M. Ferguson**

**Head Teacher**

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Aberdeenshire Council Education and Children’s Services



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